

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4, 13, 14, 17, 26, 30, 31 and 36 have been amended.

1. (twice amended) A method for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:
 - receiving a request for purchasing at least one telecommunication service from a buyer via a buyer terminal;
 - ~~obtaining~~ **receiving** information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer;
 - providing the request to a plurality of seller terminals, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;
 - receiving a reply from at least one of the seller terminals in response to the request **and further in response to the information**;
 - providing the reply to the buyer terminal;
 - receiving a selection from the buyer terminal in response to the reply; and
 - notifying a provider of the selection and an identity of the buyer.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - registering the buyer prior to receiving the request.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the registering includes:
obtaining contact information from the buyer,
obtaining a buyer name for the buyer, and
assigning an initial password to the buyer.
4. (amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the registering includes:
obtaining business demographics from the buyer, **the reply received further in response to the business demographics.**
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
identifying billing preferences for the at least one telecommunication service.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
receiving, from the buyer terminal, an identification of business sites to receive
the at least one telecommunication service,
identifying telecommunication services for each of the business sites, and
identifying desired features of each of the telecommunication services.
7. [canceled]
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
compiling a list of providers to receive the request; and
wherein the providing the request includes:

granting access to the request to only the providers on the list.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
compiling a list of providers to receive the request; and
wherein the providing the request includes:
distributing the request to only the providers on the list.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
verifying an identity of the buyer; and
wherein the providing the request includes:
presenting the request to the seller terminals only when the identity of the buyer is
verified.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting, to the buyer terminal, contractual terms and conditions for providing
the at least one telecommunication service from the notified provider; and
receiving an acceptance of the terms and conditions from the buyer terminal.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, from the seller terminals, filtering criteria that specifies types of
requests the providers want to receive; and
wherein the providing the request includes:

distributing the request to seller terminals based on the filtering criteria.

13. (twice amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:
- means for receiving a request for purchasing at least one telecommunication service from a buyer via a buyer terminal;
 - means for ~~obtaining~~ receiving information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer;
 - means for providing the request to a plurality of seller terminals, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;
 - means for receiving a reply from at least one of the seller terminals in response to the request and the information;
 - means for providing the reply to the buyer terminal;
 - means for receiving a selection from the buyer terminal in response to the reply;
- and
- means for notifying a provider of the selection and an identity of the buyer.

14. (twice amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services in a network connecting at least one buyer terminal, associated with a buyer, and a plurality of seller terminals, associated with different providers of telecommunication services, the system comprising:
- a memory that stores data; and

a processor, connected to the memory, that receives a request for purchasing at least one telecommunication service from the buyer terminal via the network, ~~obtains~~ receives information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer, provides the request and the information to a group of the seller terminals via the network, receives a reply from at least one of the seller terminals in response to the request and the information, provides the reply to the buyer terminal, receives a selection from the buyer terminal in response to the reply, and notifies a provider of the selection and an identity of the buyer.

15. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to register the buyer prior to receiving the request.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein when registering the buyer, the processor is further configured to obtain contact information from the buyer, to obtain a buyer name for the buyer, and to assign an initial password to the buyer.

17. (amended) The system of claim 15, wherein when registering the buyer, the processor is further configured to obtain business demographics from the buyer, the reply received further in response to the business demographics.

18. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to identify billing preferences for the at least one telecommunication service.

19. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to receive, from the buyer terminal, an identification of business sites to receive the at least one telecommunication service, to identify telecommunication services for each of the business sites, and to identify desired features of each of the telecommunication services.

20. [canceled]

21. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of providers to receive the request, and when providing the request, the process or is further configured to grant access to the request to only the providers on the list.

22. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of providers to receive the request, and when providing the request, the processor is configured to distribute the request to only the providers on the list.

23. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to verify an identity of the buyer, and when providing the request, the processor is further configured to present the request to the seller terminals only when the identity of the buyer is verified.

24. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to present, to the buyer terminal, contractual terms and conditions for providing the at least one telecommunication service from the notified provider, and to receive an acceptance of the terms and conditions from the buyer terminal.

25. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to receive, from the seller terminals, filtering criteria that specifies types of requests the providers want to receive, and when providing the request, the processor is further configured to distribute the request to seller terminals based on the filtering criteria.

26. (twice amended) A computer-implemented method for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:

generating a request for select telecommunication services;

~~obtaining~~ receiving information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of a buyer;

distributing the request and the information to a plurality of sellers of telecommunication services;

receiving replies to the request and the information from the sellers;

selecting at least one of the sellers based on the received replies; and

notifying the at least one seller of the selection.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating a request includes:

compiling a list of sellers to receive the request; and
wherein the distributing the request includes:
granting access to the request to only the sellers on the list.

28. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating a request includes:
compiling a list of sellers to receive the request; and
wherein the distributing the request includes:
transmitting the request to only the sellers on the list.

29. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating a request includes:
verifying an identity of an initiator of the request; and
wherein the distributing the request includes:
presenting the request to the sellers only when the identity is verified.

30. (twice amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services,
comprising:
means for generating a request for select telecommunication services;
means for ~~obtaining~~ receiving information regarding prior use of
telecommunication services of a buyer;
means for distributing the request and the information to a plurality of sellers of
telecommunication services;
means for receiving replies to the request and the information from the sellers;

means for selecting at least one of the sellers based on the received replies; and

means for notifying the at least one seller of the selection.

31. (twice amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:

- a memory that stores data; and
- a processor, connected to the memory, that generates a request for select telecommunication services, ~~obtains~~ receives information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of a buyer, distributes the request and the information to a plurality of sellers of telecommunication services, receives replies to the request and the information from the sellers, selects at least one of the sellers based on the received replies, and notifies the at least one seller of the selection.

32. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein when generating the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of sellers to receive the request, and when distributing the request, the processor is further configured to grant access to the request to only the sellers on the list.

33. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein when generating the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of sellers to receive the request, and when distributing the request, the processor is further configured to transmit the request to only the sellers on the list.

34. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein when generating the request, the processor is further configured to perform a qualification process to verify an identity of an initiator of the request, and when distributing the request, the processor is configured to present the request to the sellers only when the identity is verified.

35. (previously amended) A method comprising:

- receiving requests for providing telecommunication services from a plurality of buyers via a plurality of buyer terminals, the requests including information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of at least one of the plurality of buyers;
- providing the requests to a plurality of seller terminals, the requests excluding identities of the buyers, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;
- receiving replies from the seller terminals in response to the requests;
- providing the replies to the buyer terminals;
- receiving selections from the buyer terminals based on the replies; and
- notifying providers of the selections and the identities of the buyers.

36. (twice amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services in a network connecting a plurality of buyer terminals, associated with a plurality of buyers, and a plurality of seller terminals, associated with a corresponding plurality of providers of telecommunication services, the system comprising:

- a memory that stores data; and

a processor, connected to the memory, that receives requests for telecommunication services from the buyers via the buyer terminals, ~~obtains~~ receives information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of at least one of the plurality of buyers, provides the requests and the information to groups of the seller terminals, the requests excluding identities of the buyers, receives replies from the seller terminals in response to the requests and the information, provides the replies to the buyer terminals, receives selections from the buyer terminals based on the replies, and notifies providers of the selection and the identities of the buyers.

37. (previously amended) A computer-readable medium configured to store instructions that cause a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving requests for providing telecommunication services from a plurality of buyers via a plurality of buyer terminals, the requests including information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer;

providing the requests to a plurality of seller terminals, the requests excluding identities of the buyers, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;

receiving replies from the seller terminals in response to the requests;

providing the replies to the buyer terminals;

receiving selections from the buyer terminals based on the replies; and

notifying providers of the selections and the identities of the buyers.

38. (previously amended) A computer readable medium configured to store instructions that cause a computer to perform the steps of:

- generating a request for select telecommunication services, the request including information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of a buyer;
- distributing the request to a plurality of providers of telecommunication services;
- receiving replies to the request from the providers;
- selecting at least one of the providers based on the received replies; and

notifying the at least one provider of the selection.